

BOOK REVIEWS

Obstetrics—Normal and Operative. By George Peaslee Shears, B. S., M. D. 419 illustrations, 745 pages. Philadelphia and London: Lippincott, 1916. Price, \$6.00.

The practical deductions of a man of experience and the teacher's graphic method of demonstration constitute the chief value of this new work on obstetrics. The tendency to concentrate upon the art of obstetrics and depreciate the practical value of the science seems to us a mistake in this day of effort to raise obstetrical standards within the medical profession. However, there is much help for the general practitioner, for whom, rather than the student, it was written. E. K.

Rules for Recovery From Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

A Layman's Handbook on Treatment. By Lawrason Brown, M. D., of Saranac Lake, N. Y. Second edition, revised and enlarged. 12mo, 184 pages. Cloth, \$1.25 net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1916.

In this volume Lawrason Brown has given us in readable form a concise résumé of our present knowledge of tuberculosis.

It is written especially for the patient and its possession will answer many questions and solve many problems that arise in the home care of the afflicted.

The physician also will do well to read this book. It is just off the press and its statements are up-to-date; it has for its author one of the best-known and most eminent physicians and its utterances are authoritative. L. S. M.

Consumption, Its Prevention and Cure Without Medicine, with chapters on sanitation and prevention of other diseases. By Chas. H. Stanley Davis, M. D., Ph. D. Second Edition Enlarged. New York: Treat & Co., 1908. Price, \$1.00.

This volume cannot be considered a serious addition to the medical literature of tuberculosis.

It is full of dry statistics of a former medical generation. Some of its recommendations have long been looked upon as heresies by modern practitioners, and, saddest of all, the grammatical errors and faults of style are numerous and would shame any schoolboy who might be convicted of their perpetration.

The author and publisher evidently agree that time need not be wasted in revising and correcting a work written for non-medical readers. The contrary is true. At no time should the medical writer be so careful in his utterances, so accurate in his information as when he addresses himself to the public, who, untrained in medical matters, can not be trusted to select for themselves the good and ignore the bad. L. S. M.

Skin Cancer. By Henry H. Hazen. Published by C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1916.

The subject of cancer has for long been an interesting one, but just now it is more absorbing than ever before. This and the fact that Hazen has handled skin cancer so well should make his little book a very popular one. Special attention has been given to etiology in so far as its indefinite relationship to this particular disease is known. And to get an idea of how delightfully he has written the pathology one would have to read only the few pages on the pathology of basal-celled carcinomata and see the illustrations. The whole subject is beautifully illustrated throughout.

The author gives clearly his own experience and quotes largely from the experience of Bloodgood, with whom he has worked a great deal. Because of the interrelationship of surgery and dermatology in the therapeutics of cancer, the book

should be as valuable to the surgeon as to the dermatologist, for this part of the subject is well handled. The volume is a small one and it could well have been published in the form of a pocket edition, which I am inclined to believe would render it far more popular through convenience in handling and in carrying.

If more subjects were treated as commendably and in the same manner, then published in pocket editions, it would be of great assistance to the busy practitioner. G. D. C.

The Memoirs of a Physician. Translated from the Russian of Vikenty Veressayev, by Simeon Linden, with an introduction and notes by Henry Pleasants, Jr., M. D. N. Y.: Knopf, 1916.

There are few attractions which add more to the desirability of a production than the distance of its source. Whatever the intrinsic merits may be there is the never-failing spell of enchantment that attaches itself to the word "imported." "Translated from the Russian" strikes the eye forcibly and promises something profound, erudite, mysterious—the opening of hitherto untrodden avenues of thought and imagination.

Thus fortified with expectation this recent product of the land of despotism, caviar, Tolstoi and Turgenieff was approached by the reviewer. On finally closing the volume there was much to be grateful for in that it was written by a Russian. It thus may be kindly accepted. Had it been written by an American, it might have been thought mediocre, unconvincing and too temperamental.

In these personal memoirs of the author he tells us of his early medical training, his unfitness for practice, not having had hospital experience, his diffidence and mistakes and how later after a hospital course with increasing ability and self-confidence his activities give him a broad, ripened view of medical practice. Chapters are given to the social and economic aspects of medicine, its limitations as a science and much space to the personal relations of doctor and patient.

The whole tone of the volume is rather sombre-hued and cast in an atmosphere of pessimism, well reflected in the translation. The book will arouse and sustain the interest and sympathy of any physician who may desire to read it. M. S.

Diseases of the Skin. By Richard L. Sutton, M. D. 693 illustrations, and 8 colored plates. Published by C. V. Mosby, St. Louis, 1916.

Of what use is the multiplication of books on diseases of the skin when there are already so many on the market? There are many reasons why books on this particular subject are not superfluous, and there are additional ones in favor of the present treatise.

Diseases of the skin are much neglected by the man in general medicine and in other specialties, and an attractive presentation of this group of maladies should be of great benefit. Furthermore, this particular work is richly illustrated, which in a department of medicine that especially lends itself to pictorial illustration, is a valuable feature. In addition to these excellencies it takes up subjects that in other works have been either omitted or neglected. For instance, there is a short article on sporotrichosis with admirable photographs.

There are two diseases pertaining to the surgery of the hands, and especially of the fingers, that rarely receive any mention, and yet may be of great importance—synovial lesions of the skin and granuloma pyogenicum.

The synovial lesions of the skin are wart-like cystic affairs that occur on the back of the hands